

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 17342

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING, JULY 11

REF: (A) LONDON 8801; (B) USNATO 3900; (C) USNATO 3901

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FRENCH WERE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING AFTER GOF ASSUMPTION OF EC PRESIDENCY JULY 1. MEETING FOCUSED ON EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, CSCE, CANADIAN-EC RELATIONS, AND SEVERAL UN-RELATED SUBJECTS. NEXT IMPORTANT ITEM ON EC POLITICAL AGENDA IS JULY 31 MEETING IN PARIS BETWEEN FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES, EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI, KUWAITI FONMIN AND ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL LAUNCHING EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. AUGUST WILL BE QUIET MONTH WITH EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER, POSSIBLY WITH EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SEPTEMBER 16 AND EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. DUFOURCQ (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE) MET WITH US JULY 15 (EARLIEST TIME CONVENIENT TO HIM) TO DE-BRIEF US ON FIRST EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING PRESIDED OVER BY FRENCH IN THEIR NEW ROLE AS EC PRESIDENT. THE MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JULY 11, WAS PRECEDED ON THE SAME DAY BY A MEETING OF EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS, WHO PREPARED SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS LATER APPROVED BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN THEIR PLENARY SESSION. DUFOURCQ SAID THAT NO OTHER EXPERTS MEETINGS OCCURRED ON THE FRINGES OF THIS POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS REPORT KEY ITEMS DISCUSSED BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS AS DESCRIBED BY DUFOURCQ.

3. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE: THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AGREED THAT AT THE JULY 31 MEETING IN PARIS KICKING OFF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, THE EC REPS (FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES AND EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI) WILL FOCUS ON PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING EC PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF A SUPERVISING "GENERAL COMMISSION" WHICH WOULD OVERSEE THE WORK PROGRAM FOR THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. NO DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED WITHIN THE EC ON THE EXACT COMPOSITION OF THE "GENERAL COMMISSION," ALTHOUGH IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT IT WILL BE STAFFED BY RELATIVELY SENIOR PEOPLE FROM EACH SIDE AND THAT IT WOULD NOT MEET IN PERMANENT SESSION BUT BE CALLED TOGETHER FROM TIME TO TIME AS DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRE. EC CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL ALSO PROPOSE TO ARABS THAT "WORKING COMMISSIONS" BE ESTABLISHED TO HANDLE SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT BE AGREED TO IN THE COURSE OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. AT THE PRESENT TIME, EUROPEANS HAVE NO FIXED IDEAS ON HOW MANY "WORKING COMMISSIONS" MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED. EUROPEANS EXPECT THAT ARAB REPS (KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD AND ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIAD) AT JULY 31 MEETING WILL SIMPLY LISTEN TO EC PROPOSALS,

MAKE NO MAJOR PROPOSALS OF THEIR OWN, AND PRESENT EC PROPOSALS TO ARAB SUMMIT MEETING (WHICH EUROPEANS EXPECT TO CONVENE IN SEPTEMBER). DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF THAT MEETING, DIRECTION OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE WILL BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE. IN ANY EVENT, ACCORDING TO DUFORCQ, EUROPEANS DO NOT FORESEE ANY SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT ON THE DIALOGUE UNTIL AFTER THE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, DUFORCQ SAID THAT NO FIRM DECISIONS HAD YET BEEN TAKEN REGARDING HOW THE EC WOULD ORGANIZE ITS STAFF WORK FOR THE DIALOGUE. SOME ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE STAFF OF THE EC COMMISSION, FRANCE IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE EC

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PRESIDENT, AND THE STAFFS OF THE OTHER EIGHT EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS. ON SUBSTANCE OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, DUFOURCQ CONFIRMED EARLIER EC PLEDGES THAT EUROPEANS WOULD AVOID POLITICAL SUBJECTS. HE SAID THAT IF ARABS RAISED POLITICAL ISSUES WITHIN THE FORUM OF EURO-ARAB
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DIALOGUE, EUROPEANS WOULD RESPOND THAT (A) EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE IS NOT THE PLACE FOR DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL SUBJECTS; (B) EC STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 6, 1973 REMAINED DEFINITIVE EC STATEMENT ON POLITICAL MATTERS INVOLVING MIDDLE EAST, AND (C) IMPROVEMENTS IN NON-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS RESULTING FROM EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE MIGHT HAVE MARGINAL BUT PREFERENTIAL EFFECT ON POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE AREA. SEE PARIS 16954 FOR EARLIER REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. CSCE: DUFOURCQ'S REPORT ON TREATMENT OF CSCE BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS CLOSELY FOLLOWED SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 2A AND 2B REF A. DUFOURCQ SAID THAT THE EC NINE ARE "RESERVED" ABOUT SO-CALLED "PRENDERGAST PAPER" WHICH, ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ IS "TOO SIMPLISTIC." MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ THE EUROPEANS DO NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF DEFINING "MINIMUM GOALS" WHICH WOULD PERMIT MOVEMENT TO PHASE III OF CSCE. RATHER, ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ, EC HAS AGREED TO DEFINE "MAJOR OBJECTIVES" (OBJECTIFS MAJEURS) TO BE SOUGHT AT CSCE. EUROPEANS ARE DECIDEDLY COOL TO IDEA OF NATO AS FOCAL POINT FOR THIS WORK. ACCORDING TO THE EUROPEANS, WORK ON DEFINING THESE "MAJOR OBJECTIVES" SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA, WHERE THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IS AVAILABLE AND WHERE THE NEUTRALS (AS WELL AS NON-NATO BUT EC MEMBER IRELAND) CAN BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE WORK PROGRAM. FRENCH NATO PERM REP DE ROSE WOULD PRESENT TO NAC EC NINE'S VIEWS AS AGREED AT JULY 11 MEETING (SEE REFS B AND C).

5. CANADIAN-EC RELATIONS: POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSED CANADA'S PROPOSAL FOR A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE EC. GENERAL REACTION OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO THIS IDEA WAS NOT WARM. CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT GATT ALREADY PROVIDED ADEQUATE FRAMEWORK

FOR COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE EC. LIKEWISE, EC COMMISSION WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC FOR SEPARATE CANADIAN-EC COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ. NEVERTHELESS, COMMISSION HAS BEEN ASKED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER TO SEE IF IT CAN COME UP WITH "SOMETHING IMAGINATIVE" FOR CANADIAN-EC AGREEMENT. DUFOURCQ WAS NOT SANGUINE THAT THIS EXERCISE WOULD PRODUCE ANYTHING

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WORTHWHILE. IN ANY EVENT, EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS WILL PROBABLY LOOK AT SUBJECT AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER -- IF EC COMMISSION STAFF HAS COME UP WITH "SOMETHING IMAGINATIVE."

6. UN CONSENSUS: REFERRING TO MOVEMENT IN UN BY UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS TO USE FORMULA OF "CONSENSUS" TO CHECK WESTERN INTERESTS, DUFOURCQ SAID THAT POLITICAL DIRECTORS ENGAGED IN AN "EVASIVE" DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT, A DISCUSSION WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE PROCEEDED AT A UNIFORMLY LOW LEVEL OF EXPERTISE. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AGREED THAT ALL "CONSENSUSES" CANNOT BE CONDEMNED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN TECHNICAL TALKS SUCH AS THE LAW OF THE SEA DISCUSSION IN CARACAS, EUROPEANS FELT THAT "CONSENSUS" CAN BE USEFUL MECHANISM. HOWEVER, ON POLICY/POLITICAL PROBLEMS, "CONSENSUS" CAN GIVE A SENSE OF UNITY WHERE NONE EXISTS. ON SUCH MAJOR ISSUES, EUROPEANS WOULD PREFER TO SEE A FORMAL VOTE WHICH WOULD FORCE NATIONS TO REGISTER PUBLICLY THEIR REAL PREFERENCES. MOREOVER, EUROPEANS AGREED THAT IF ANY NATION WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE "CONSENSUS" APPROACH, IT COULD CALL FOR A FORMAL VOTE. AFTER WHAT DUFOURCQ DESCRIBED AS A "PELL-MELL" EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, POLITICAL DIRECTORS AGREED TO "THINK" ABOUT IT. UN EXPERTS OF EC-NINE WILL MEET IN PARIS IN SEPTEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR THE UNGA AND WILL PREPARE A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. SEATING OF SOUTH AFRICA AT UNGA: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS ALSO DISCUSSED LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS PROBLEM OVER SEATING OF SOUTH AFRICA AT UPCOMING UNGA. EUROPEANS ARE CONCERNED THAT ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTIFLIKA, WHO WILL BE UNGA PRESIDENT, MAY SEEK TO PROHIBIT SOUTH AFRICA FROM TAKING ITS SEAT. EUROPEANS FELT THAT BOUTIFLIKA, WHO DUFOURCQ DESCRIBED AS HARD-HEADED POLITICAL REALIST, MAY RESTRAIN HIMSELF AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM MAY NOT GROW TO SERIOUS PROPORTIONS. EUROPEANS AGREED THAT REFERRAL OF THIS PROBLEM TO THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE PROBABLY

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WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA SINCE IT RISKS "POLITICIZING"
THE CASE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, DUFOURCQ SAID
NEITHER THE EC NINE AS A GROUP NOR THE FRENCH INDIVIDU-
ALLY HAVE ANY INTENTION OF INTERVENING WITH THE
ALGERIANS ON THIS ISSUE AT THE PRESENT TIME.
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8. US-EC RELATIONS: DUFOURCQ SAID THERE WAS NO, REPEAT NO, DISCUSSION OF US-EC RELATIONS DURING JULY 11 MEETING. HE SAID SO FAR AS HE COULD TELL THERE WAS NO AREA THAT MERITED FORMAL US-EC CONSULTATION AT THIS TIME.

9. SECURITY AFFAIRS: APART FROM TREATMENT OF CSCE REFERRED TO ABOVE, DUFOURCQ SAID THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF SECURITY MATTERS BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS. SPECIFICALLY, DUFOURCQ SAID THAT MBFR WAS NOT RAISED DURING MEETING.

10. FRENCH EUROPEAN INITIATIVES: DUFOURCQ SAID THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, IT IS MUCH TOO EARLY TO SAY ANYTHING CONCRETE ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY. (NOTE: AT THE CLOSE OF THE GOF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JULY 10, THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT WAS THE FIRST STAGE OF A PROCESS OF SOUNDING OUT WHAT FRANCE HOPES WILL LEAD TO A SIGNIFICANT DECISION ON THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF EUROPE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.") SEE PARIS 16753 FOR EMBASSY ANALYSIS OF THIS SUBJECT.

11. FUTURE WORK PROGRAM: WITH TRADITIONAL AUGUST HOLIDAYS FAST APPROACHING, DUFOURCQ SAID THAT HE SAW NO ACTION ON THE EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION SCENE BETWEEN THE JULY 31 EURO-ARAB MEETING IN PARIS, AND EARLY SEPTEMBER WHEN EC FOREIGN OFFICES WOULD BE GEARING UP FOR FALL WORK PHASE. EUROPEANS HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION FOR SEPTEMBER 16. MAIN AGENDA ITEMS OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AND CSCE. IF FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREE TO HOLD SEPTEMBER 16 MEETING, POLITICAL DIRECTORS WOULD MEET DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9-13 TO PREPARE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

12. COMMENT: DUFOURCQ'S DELAY IN MEETING WITH US CAN BE TRACED TO HEAVY WORK LOAD AT QUAI IN CONNECTION WITH JULY 11 MEETING AND ITS FOLLOW-UP, AS WELL AS PREPARATIONS FOR SAUVAGNARGUES' VISIT TO THE HAGUE AND VISITS TO PARIS BY IRISH FONMIN AND UK PRIME MINISTER --
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ALL OF WHICH OCCUR THIS WEEK AND ARE DUFOURCQ'S RESPONSIBILITY. OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT DUFOURCQ MADE SPECIAL EFFORT THIS TIME TO BE MORE FORTH-

COMING ON SUBSTANCE OF EC POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS THAN
HE HAS BEEN IN THE PAST.
IRWIN

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